

## Quebec Ends Pool Deliveries

### Peerless Films Will Offer 25

Peerless Films will offer Canadian exhibitors 25 features during the 1943-44 season, Jack Roher announces from his offices in Toronto. The list will be made up of features not previously shown in Canada and a group of popular reissues.

Heading the list are eight action Westerns by James Oliver Cur-

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### 'How Do You Get Around This One?'

Our reprinted plaint of a Smith Falls patron about audience noises brought a reply from Manager S. H. MacNeill of the Capitol Theatre of that community.

Wrote the patron: "When people pay to see a picture they expect to hear it as well, but lately you're lucky if you can hear half of it, with children talking and babies crying, others cracking gum in

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### Exhibitors Protest to Wartime Prices and Trade Board

Discontinuance in Quebec of inter-exchange shipments of motion pictures by the distributors has brought protests from exhibitors and an official request from Eugene Beaulac, secretary of Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries, to R. C. McMullen that the Wartime Prices and Trade Board order the old method retained.

#### 'Twas a Regular Mayor's Nest

That was quite a bit of mutual ragging that went on between Mayor Conboy of Toronto and Mayor Archie Mason of Springhill, N.S., at the King Edward Hotel luncheon of the National Council of Independent Motion Picture Exhibitors of Canada.

Mayor Conboy, with a comrades-in-a-common-cause look at Archie, said: "You know how it is with us mayors—in one year, out the next. We never know where we are so we ought to stick together. I give a special welcome to His Worship, the mayor of Springhill, Nova Scotia."

Archie responded with words that meant "Amen" or "You said it, kid." They ought to form a mayor's union.

### Prices Board Praised By J. J. Fitzgibbons

"The Wartime Prices and Trade Board has done a fine job," J. J. Fitzgibbons told members and guests of the National Council of Independents at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, last Tuesday. "It has done much overall good and nothing should be done that would break up its work."

The occasion was a luncheon to greet out-of-town delegates to the three-day convention of the National Council. Mayor Conboy was present to extend a welcome in behalf of the city of Toronto.

Mr. Fitzgibbons, chairman of the Motion Picture War Services

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#### Dave Friendly Joins PRC Sales Staff

Dave Friendly, who spent many years in other branches of the amusement business and was lately field man for Curtis Publications, has joined the sales staff of Producers Releasing Corporation.

You'll be seeing him. He's as amiable as his monicker.

### Stamp-Nite Set For Court Test

Ted Soucey, manager of the Alexander Theatre, Rouyn, was committed to stand trial at the next term of the Criminal Assizes by District Magistrate Boileau last week after a preliminary hearing arising out of alleged violation of that section of the Criminal Code dealing with lotteries. It is the contention of Crown Attorney Leo

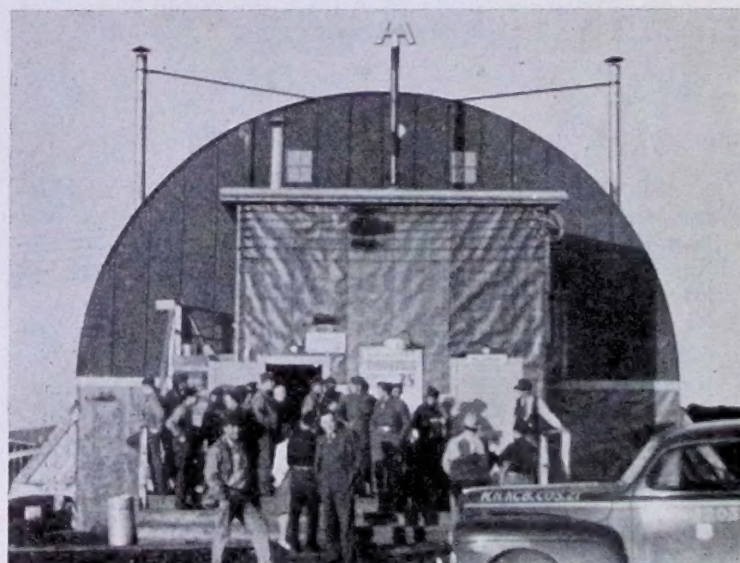
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#### Good Citizen Award

The well-known West Vancouver showman, J. Howard Fletcher, won the Good Citizenship Plaque for his district. He raised more than \$7,000 for the Canadian Red Cross with Sunday evening shows.

#### Hopkins Joins RCAF

Donald Hopkins, formerly head usher at the Geneva Theatre, Orillia, Ontario, is taking preliminary training with the RCAF.

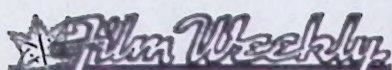


Above is the Dawn Creek camp theatre on the Alaskan Highway, whipped up by Famous Players for the boys on that long, long trail and in charge of Frank Kershaw of the Calgary office. He is shown in the foreground with J. J. Fitzgibbons who, with R. W. Bolstad, did some tenderfooting up that way this summer. Another is planned for the Yukon Territory.

### Coming Soon -- 'The City That Stopped Hitler'

"THE CITY THAT STOPPED HITLER—HEROIC STALINGRAD." Never anything like it. See Russia's secret weapon, "Katusha," shown for the first time. For further particulars CONTACT YOUR NEAREST EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL EXCHANGE.





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## Those Tax-Free Shows

We had a chance to talk to P. W. Mahon, president of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Exhibitors Association, in Toronto for the National Independent Council meeting, about those tax-free shows that are irking prairie exhibitors. And it sounds serious.

Under Section 122 of the Special War Revenue Act shows not run for profit are excused from the application of the 20 per cent federal amusement tax. In many places merchants, to keep their customers from moving to the next town to shop and see a movie, are offering 16 and 35 mm. entertainment. Since these are co-operatively supported without the purpose of direct profit, the absence of the tax addition allows a lower price of admission to be charged. This is considered to be unfair competition by standard exhibitors and they are asking Ottawa to re-examine the application of the law.

Certain 35 mm. operators have turned over their theatres to local merchant groups or civic bodies, keeping the receipts. It hardly seems likely that there is no profit in this kind of operation. Also the merchants are behind the scheme to protect and add to their own profits. Why the government doesn't see the thing in that light puzzles the exhibitors affected.

Exhibitors in these rural areas are having none the best of it these days and the competition of tax-free shows is just one more burden. They can't offer two-for-one admissions because it doesn't pay them. They can't reduce admission prices to meet the new competition. They're hoping that Ottawa will take a fairer attitude.

They are preparing to fight this newest of problems—no small one, considering that there are about 20 tax-free shows in one Saskatchewan area alone.

## A Good Spirit

Mr. Mahon, in addressing the National Council Independents and guests, said that his own organization was an all-embracing one. Theatre men of every type of operation were in one body and so far no single dispute has lasted long enough to bring disharmony.

There was a spirit in the air that was promising. All the speakers agreed that the Motion Picture War Services was a common cause. There are obviously things in common between all exhibitors, no matter the stripe.

Ontario now has two exhibitors' organizations. The National Council affiliate, headed by Ben Freedman, contains Independents who own one and more houses. The new exhibitors' organization, founded this year, which is headed by Ed Warren, contains one-theatre operators as well as big circuits. Neither organization is as far away from the other as it appeared to be at first.

In the Maritimes the Nova Scotia Allied, headed by Bill Cuzner, is an all-embracing organization with an Independent wing.

There seems to be a method of organization that would bring all exhibitors, Independents and circuit men, under one head while allowing them freedom to express their own viewpoint.

We may see a more united industry yet.

## Pool Deliveries End in Quebec

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will have to pay express charges for each film received, instead of part of the cost of a general shipment.

The main reason for the action of the Montreal Film Board of Trade was the growing number of missouts caused by the temporary loss of film after return. Distributors had a hard time locating features due for new dates, being forced to check each exchange until such films were located. Many express pickups were missed that way. New exchange workers, unacquainted with the system, moved films from other exchanges than their own out of the way and these were practically forgotten until a searcher showed up.

The distributors found it almost impossible to collect penalties and extra costs because of missouts. The express companies refused to accept responsibility under the old setup.

The attitude of the carters was also taken into consideration. Two of the exchanges are downtown, three miles away from the others. To complete a pooled shipment the carters had to run between several exchanges, for which they charged 50 cents per trip. They don't want this type of business any more, saying that the strain on manpower, rubber and gasoline makes it unprofitable.

Films are now shipped individually and returned that way, with the express company and the exhibitor signing for each. The distributors are much happier about the situation but the exhibitors are irked about the extra cost.

## Theatre Worker Finds \$700, Gets \$10

Mrs. Margaret Brooks of the staff of the Capitol, Saskatoon, found a purse with \$700 in it while cleaning the theatre and turned it into Manager Bill Winterton, who called the police. The lady who lost it gave Mrs. Brooks, who has four children to support, a \$10 reward.

The same lady lost her change purse earlier. It was found in a department store without the \$60 it contained when she had it last.

## J. J. Fitzgibbons Praises WPTBoard

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and a leader of the industry, praised the WPTB during a frank and friendly talk on exhibitor relationships and common problems. During his remarks he told of the appreciation of the government for the efforts of film and theatre men in behalf of victory, discrediting the rumor heard occasionally that the industry is held in poor regard by Ottawa.

Ben Freedman, president of the Ontario branch of the National Council, acted as chairman and introduced the speakers, among them Controller Fred Hamilton of Toronto, Mayor Archie Mason of Springhill, Nova Scotia, R. C. McMullen, Ray Lewis, Russell McTavish of Vancouver, I. H. Shulman of Winnipeg and P. W. Mahon, president of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Exhibitors Association.

The speakers were unanimous in offering their co-operation to the Motion Picture War Services as a common cause.

The general spirit of the gathering, which was made up of diversified elements of the industry, was one of good will.

## Stamp-Nite Set For Court Test

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Bureau that Stamp-Nite, which is conducted weekly in his theatre by Soucey, comes under the Code.

The action is friendly, Soucey and Odeon submitting to it after discussions with the Crown Attorney in an endeavor to clear the air on the status of Stamp-Nite. It has been running for years without interference and was continued when Odeon took over the house from the former owner, Tony Allevata. War Savings Stamps are used in conducting it. Max Garmaise of Rouyn is the attorney for the defense.

Recently a prosecution of Foto-Nite in the same court was dismissed by Magistrate Bolly on the grounds that the manager of the Capitol and Noranda theatres, Sam Korman, was wrongfully accused.

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# 'Staling'd' Epic, 'Courage' OK

## 'How Do You Get Around This One?'

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your ear, etc." And so on. The letter, signed by "A Citizen," stated that it expressed the opinion of many.

To which Manager MacNeill replies:

"Letters such as this, which might appear once in several years, should not be taken too seriously. A patron who has any cause for complaint should come to the usher or ask for the manager at the time the disturbance is happening and point out those who are making the noise. It would soon be eliminated. This noise might not be loud enough for the usher or doorman at the back of the theatre to hear.

"Disturbances in a theatre are mostly caused by teen-aged girls and boys and you will find this more prevalent in town theatres than in city theatres. The letter . . . does not represent conditions in our theatre. Lady patrons with small children generally come in the afternoon but if their children start to cry and continue to be an annoyance they are requested to bring the child out. These patrons must be handled diplomatically. When there is a large audience of children at matinees there is bound to be a certain amount of annoyance in spite of everything a manager can do.

"Adults and children are constantly getting up from their seats all over the theatre to go to the candy machine in the lobby and the traffic up and down the aisle continually is disturbing to the rest of the audience. This condition will prevail as long as there is a candy machine there, so 'How Do You Get Around This?'"

## NFB-IATSE Confab For Ottawa

The question of unionization of the National Film Board's 16 mm. projectionists by the IATSE will get a real going-over at a meeting in Ottawa next month. W. P. Covert will act for the projectionists.

The IATSE is asking jurisdiction over the NFB men, who operate in the rural, factory and trade union circuits.

### The City That Stopped Hitler —Heroic Stalingrad EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL (Running Time: 80 Mins.)

The long-awaited film record of the defeat of the Germans at Stalingrad, a high-light in military history considered by many to have been the turning point in this war, is ready for release. Though the public has seen quite a few films of the Russians at war, this one leaves even those awesome film files far behind in showing the battle in the lines and behind. It is packed with scene after scene of heroism in battle, courage in production, the humiliation of the defeated Nazi officers and the despair of their soldiers.

The version to be distributed in Canada, called "The City That Stopped Hitler — Heroic Stalingrad," was edited by Paramount and is being sold by that company in the USA. Brian Donlevy does the narration. The commentary is by Albert Maltz. It was made by 15 Soviet cameramen. Many of the scenes, used to provide continuity and meaning, are from captured German films. The German films are used cleverly. One scene shows the spirited goosestepping of the German army on parade in Berlin. The next, a Russian shot, shows the weary and hopeless trudging of the captured Nazis—contrast which is uplifting and humorous.

The scenes that thrill the audience are those of the Russian cavalry charging, the famed Katusha rocket guns in action, the workers ending the long day in the factories by marching off to the front lines for a night of fighting, the surrender of Field Marshal von Paulus and his chagrined staff, the Germans being ferreted out of their holes in the ground and from cellars, the vast scenes of captured equipment abandoned by the defeated 330,000, the Soviet soldiers wild with joy and embracing their comrades when they have fought their way across to each other, and many more.

The picture is tremendously valuable from a standpoint of morale. The Germans are treated with obvious contempt by the Russians as men without

### FIRST COMES COURAGE COLUMBIA (Running Time: 85 Mins.)

Though the subject of this film is a familiar one, that of the Norwegian underground, it has a couple of star names that should bring good business. Merle Oberon, who hasn't been seen often of late, shares the lead spot with Brian Aherne, growing in popularity lately.

There are quite a few exciting sequences in it. There's a Commando raid and a wild chase between the stars and pursuing Nazis. The chase is against time, running through oil fields mined by the Commandos. The stars make it and the Nazis don't.

Oberon is the Underground worker who fawns on the Nazis and is engaged to one of their officers. The town people are not aware of her real work and she has drawn their hatred.

Aherne is the British officer dropped by parachute to make arrangements for the Commando raid. He is betrayed by the cousin of a companion. The last is killed by pursuing Nazis and Aherne, though wounded, escapes. Oberon, an old sweetheart, hides him in her home because she has a certain immunity. Suspense grows out of the growing suspicions of the Nazis about her real intentions.

She marries the Nazi officer, Carl Esmond, to divert suspicion. Though he is killed in the Commando raid, she refuses to leave with the Commandos and Aherne, slipping away to continue her work.

The film is excellently produced, with many well-mounted interiors and frequent changes of scenery. Direction by Dorothy Arzner is good.

Others in the cast are Fritz Leiber, Erville Alderson, Erik Rolf and Isobel Elsom.

spirit unless they have superior arms and equipment. The conception of their near-invincibility is plainly dissipated by the beaten, cowardly creatures who had been sent to their doom doped with delusions of grandeur.

As the film fades off the screen and the scenes of Nazi defeat vanish the commentator says: "And this is not the end."

## Peerless Films Will Offer 25

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wood, the most popular of all fiction writers on that theme. Each one features Kermit Maynard. One of them, "Song of Trail," has Maynard, Evelyn Brent, Fuzzy Knight and George Hayes. Two are to be announced. The other five are "Wild Horse Round-up," "Fighting Texan," "Galloping Dynamite," "Valley of Terror" and "Whistling Bullets." Some feature Hobart Bosworth.

Among the reissues are:

"Yellow Cargo," with Conrad Nagel, Jack LaRue and Vince Barnett.

"King of the Sierras," with Rex and Sheik.

"Love Takes Flight," with Bruce Cabot and Beatrice Roberts.

"Cipher Bureau," with Joan Woodbury and Leon Ames.

"Edlie Express," with Anna Sten and Alan Marshal. Miss Sten is now making a comeback in pictures, having been seen last in "Hitler's Children."

"Panama Patrol," with Leon Ames, Charlotte Wynters and Adrienne Ames.

"Shadows Over Shanghai," with James Dunn, Robert Barrat and Ralph Morgan.

"The Long Shot," with Marsha Hunt and Gordon Jones.

"Frontier Scout," with Al St. John and George Houston.

Several others will be selected by Roher.

## Cohen Brothers Stop Thieves

Joseph Cohen, manager of the Crown Theatre, Toronto, and his brother Simon, who manages the Broadview, foiled a three-man robbery attempt last week when they refused to submit to thieves who stopped their car as they were leaving the Crown Theatre.

Ordered to get into the back seat when the car was stopped, Joseph Cohen leaped out and began shouting for help. When threatened with a revolver he did not stop shouting and the men fled.





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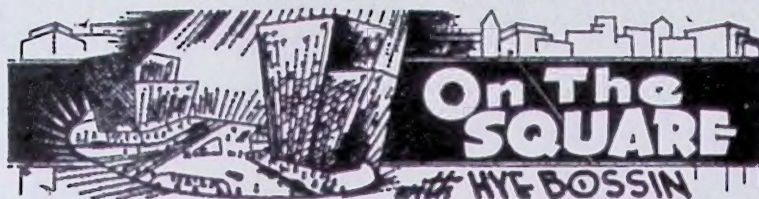
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## Everybody Had a Swell Time

That was quite a mob scene out at Charlie Mavety's Circle M Ranch the other night. Sounded like an Indian raid but was really the chicken barbecue of the National Council of Indies. It was a do-as-you-please evening, with everyone giving way to their inclinations in the spacious surroundings and comfortable facilities. It seemed that the whole industry was on hand.

Martin Bloom went riding up and down in front of the envious tenderfeet, which caused George Altman to snort, "The man's stirrup-crazy." And Joe Plottel seemed to be drinking it all in, no doubt to get inspiration for the sale of those Dick Foran Western reissues that Warners have. Gary Cass trimmed yours truly at darts while nearby Gord Lightstone was giving O. J. Silverthorne a lesson in Boston.

While some were wandering about the ranch, others were examining Charlie's famed Palemino horses. From the chuck wagon you could hear muffled shouts of joy from those whose mouths were stuffed with grand food raised right there. The elegant ranch house, filled with many interesting souvenirs, among them a \$1500 silver saddle made for Robert Taylor as "Billy the Kid," was a favorite hangout.

Charlie Mavety was busy making everyone feel at home. The Circle M is no high-class kibitz but a large and serious enterprise. There are 80 horses on the place, as well as a large herd of cows and the cowpunchers have no time for guitar playing. Charlie's horses return his love, one fellow doing plenty of tricks. He even kisses Charlie on the cheek when asked to.

Ben Freedman, Harry Romberg, Gus and Garson Soloway can take all the bows they want for the very enjoyable event.

## Old Man With the Whispers

Bud Barker, overseas with the RCAF, discovered that his bunkmate was a former Odeon man. The two spent the first night arguing the merits of their respective companies. . . . Harry Lester is a regular Maple Leaf rooter, his pal Harry Davis being the firstbaseman of the team. . . . Lou Polakoff's daughter, Helen, was married to Joe Stutz of the Wynola family last Thursday at the Holy Blossom Synagogue, Toronto. The wedding was followed by a family dinner at the King Edward Hotel. . . . Edmonton poolroom owner beefed to the cops about the theatre next door blocking off his business with its lineups. . . . Bert Bacharach, in Men's Wear Magazine, remembers a scene he was part of in a pre-war Berlin beer parlor. One of a group of drinking Prussians, a short-haired, sword-scarred fellow who was somewhat drunk, jeered loud enough for him to hear: "Look at France—in ruins. Look at the Fatherland—untouched. Now tell me who lost the war!" It won't be that way after this war. . . . Nellie Lambert, usherette at the Grand, Kingston, has joined the navy. . . . Mitchell Franklin, RCAF, son of Joe Franklin, was married to Miss Agnes Yorke of St. John in New York while on leave.

## Grandpappy Fitzgibbons

J. J. Fitzgibbons, genial president of Famous Players, became a grandfather for the first time last week with the debut of John Joseph Fitzgibbons, III, at the Honolulu Hospital. The father, Lieut. J. J. Fitzgibbons, Jr., is there with the United States army.

Lieut. Fitzgibbons, who is married to a young lady he met while stationed in Hawaii, was formerly assistant manager of the Metropolitan, Winnipeg. Educated in an American military institute, he was a reserve army officer and was called to the service before the USA entered the war.

The contribution of the Fitzgibbons family is a notable one from a standpoint of manpower alone. Son Eugene is in India with the US Army Air Corps, another son is taking a USA navy course, a son-in-law is a medical officer with the American army, and a daughter is a member of the RCAF, Women's Division.

The new grandfather has never met his daughter-in-law. Now he has a grandson he hasn't seen yet. But he is no less happy about the event. That's the war for you—and he knows about war. He's head of the motion picture war services in Canada.

## Delegates See 'Silver Fleet'

Netherlands Government officials screened the British-made feature "The Silver Fleet" last week-end for 70 correspondents and 100 global war experts at the Quebec conference. Later, the print vanished into the Chateau Frontenac, presumably to be viewed by unnamed dignitaries in the Roosevelt-Churchill entourage.

Purpose of the event was to highlight the fact that Holland, Anglo-American ally in both European and Pacific war theatres, has underground preparations well-advanced to aid United Nations' troops when the day comes.

A production of The Archers (Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger), "The Silver Fleet" has been drawing well in Britain as a present-day Scarlet Pimpernel tale. But its background, shot with the co-operation of the Royal Netherlands Navy, and using in its story information smuggled out to the Netherlands Government-in-exile, is rated an authentic blueprint of conditions along part of Europe's invasion coast. Director Vernon Sewell, RNVR, was seconded to the Netherlands Navy to make the film by the British Admiralty. Ralph Richardson, now a Lieutenant-Commander in Britain's Fleet Air Arm, was given leave to star in it.

Jan Van Stappen, head of the Netherlands' office in Montreal, was host at the Quebec Conference preview and the showing was held at the Capitol theatre there through the courtesy of J. J. Fitzgibbons and Famous Players Canadian Corporation.

## Navy Helps 'Action'

Warners "Action in the North Atlantic" was ushered into Shea's, Toronto, with appropriate ceremonies. The 90-piece band of HMCS Kent played in front of the theatre and a number of navy and merchant marine men were interviewed over the radio.

## Managers Help in Delinquency Drive

Managers of Cornwall, Ontario, theatres will keep a check on children seeking admission at night unaccompanied by parents or guardians. Juvenile Judge P. C. Bergeron made this known recently when dealing with the case of a 14-year-old boy charged with the theft of tickets from the Capitol Theatre.

The co-operation of theatre managers "will be a great help in our campaign against juvenile delinquency," Judge Bergeron stated. He believes it will stop patrons from buying tickets for children who stand outside theatres.



## Big NFB Circuit In Saskatchewan

The National Film Board, co-operating with the audio-visual branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Education, has recently completed one of the most comprehensive film programs ever presented in that province, according to the Hon. Hubert Staines, Minister of Education.

In order to make the services of the National Film Board projectionists available in many areas of the Province, 11 full-time circuits were organized. Each circuit consisted of 20 centres, and, in each centre, a projectionist presented a program on the same day every fourth week. On each occasion two programs were given at each point, one in the afternoon for the school children, and the other in the evening mainly for adults.

In addition to the regular circuits, through the co-operation of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, six part-time circuits were operated. For the period, October 12 to June 18, there were a total of 3,558 showings with an average attendance of 123 people for each. Two hundred and twenty-three centres were visited during each four-week period, and the average total attendance for each of these periods was 48,758.

"The purpose of these programs is quite clearly defined," said Mr. Staines, "Their aim is to make Canada better known to Canadians. They show that each of the many groups of peoples making up our country has made a distinct contribution to our national life. They stress the importance of Canada's war effort and her influence throughout the world. They portray the efforts being made by the whole British Empire, together with the other democratic nations, to preserve and extend our democratic way of life. For teachers and pupils, they aim at bringing the world into the classroom in a vivid and concrete manner. Additional films correlated with the elementary and high school curricula, covering every phase of the school work, are available."

Every community sets up a committee which distributes advertising and arranges a place for the showings, usually a hall or school. Last year, out of 233 centres in which NFB films were shown, 180 used the services of the film library for additional films for use in the school.

The films, stated the Minister of Education, have done much to clarify the concepts of the girls and boys. Children prepare posters, read pamphlets and write letters of critical evaluation.

Local organization cooperate in making the showings a success.

## Vitagraph's Hefty '43-44 Program

Vitagraph, Warners' Canadian outlet, would not only deliver a full season's product but would keep the market supplied by reissuing four James Cagney films and six Dick Foran musical Westerns, General Manager Wolfe Cohen told those present at the two-day convention of the company in Montreal last week.

Cohen, vice-president of Vitagraph Ltd., who has just returned from a coast-to-coast survey, reported that conditions were good on both coasts and that the company's policy was to help exhibitors in depressed areas.

Vitagraph will release up to 36 features during 1943-44, four of these specials that will be shown at regular admission prices, the meeting was told.

Ben Kalmenson, general sales manager of Warners, announced the winners of the Canadian Drive of Champions contest. Victory bond prizes were given to L. McKenzie's St. John branch (\$1,000), Earl H. Dalgleish's Vancouver branch (\$600), and I. Coval's Montreal branch (\$400). Kalmenson revealed that the studio is spending more on its next 24 pictures than was spent on the same number during last season, when 48 were released in Canada.

Others who spoke at the sessions were Arthur Sachson, who discussed current difficulties in exchange operations; Norman H. Moray, short subjects sales manager; and Glen Ireton, Canadian field man.

The four specials listed were "Thank Your Lucky Stars," with an all-star cast including Bogart, Cantor, Bette Davis, De Havilland, Flynn, Garfield, Joan Leslie, Jack Carson, Alan Hale, Edward Everett Horton, Don Wilson, Henry Armetta and others; "The Adventures of Mark Twain," with Frederic March and Alexis Smith; "Saratoga Trunk," with Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman; and "Rhapsody in Blue," based on the life of George Gershwin, starring Robert Alda, Joan Leslie and with a strong supporting cast including Al Jolson and Paul Whiteman.

Other features announced were: "Arsenic and Old Lace," with Cary Grant, Priscilla Lane, Raymond Massey and Peter Lorre.

"Devotion," with Olivia de Havilland, Ida Lupino, Nancy Coleman, Paul Henreid and Sydney Greenstreet. Based on the life of the Bronte sisters.

"Destination Tokyo," submarine story with Cary Grant, John Garfield and Alan Hale.

"Shine On, Harvest Moon," musical based on the life of Nora Bayes, with Ann Sheridan, Dennis Morgan, Jack Carson and Irene Manning.

"Old Acquaintance," with Bette

Davis, Miriam Hopkins, John Loder and Gig Young.

"Watch on the Rhine," with Bette Davis and Paul Lukas.

"Princess O'Rourke," a comedy with Olivia de Havilland, Robert Cummings, Charles Coburn and Jane Wyman.

A strong schedule of shorts was announced, among them several Westerns.

Besides those mentioned above, the following attended from the Canadian branches: Joe Plottel, branch manager, A. E. Piggins, district booker, and George Altman, salesman, all from Toronto; I. Coval, branch manager, and G. Kiely, salesman, Montreal; G. A. Matthews, branch manager, and Frank Davis, salesman, Winnipeg; Sam Pearlman, branch manager, and M. Saffier, salesman, Calgary; E. H. Dalgleish, Vancouver branch manager, and Lewis McKenzie, St. John branch manager.

## Washington Asks Sunday Shows

Repeal of local ordinances against Sunday movies in the USA is being urged by the Office of Community War Services in Washington as part of a nationwide drive to develop recreational facilities for the benefit of service men and women.

The OCWS action follows a survey suggested by Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt who pointed out a definite connection between morale and recreation, not only in the services but for war workers as well.

A spokesman for the OCWS said that many small towns adjacent to military establishments failed to provide recreational facilities of any kind on Sundays with a resultant bad effect all round. In some areas the laws are so stringent that not even the USO can function properly, leaving service people "at loose ends" if they're unlucky enough to draw a 24-hour Sunday pass in such communities.

Canada has solved the problem to a great extent by Sunday shows in major cities for the men and women of the Dominion's armed services.

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## It's a Pleasure, Said Steve

At the Elgin, Ottawa, the National Film Board's "Corvette Port Arthur" is attracting much attention. A lady stopped in the office of Manager Steve McManus to tell him how much she had enjoyed it. She wanted to know what he did with stills when through with them. Steve asked why.

The lady, Mrs. Whelan of Ottawa, explained that her son, Able Seaman Robert Maxwell Whelan, was pictured in one of the stills. She hadn't seen him for two years.

Steve gallantly removed the still and presented it to the lady, who was thrilled.

## Plan Two More Army Camp Situations.

RCAF stations at Clinton and Mountain View, both in Ontario, have installed 35 mm. equipment and are planning to open for showing in October. All additional situations are aggravating the print shortage, present number being strained. The camps, now receiving first run, require in many cases that an additional print be made.

# 39 Features From Fox

20th Century-Fox Film Corporation will release 39 features and 41 short subjects, including 13 issues of "March of Time" and 104 issues of Movietone Newsreel, during the forthcoming 1943-44 season. There will be no "B" product

on the list, and none are contemplated. At least ten Technicolor productions are scheduled, seven of them musicals. Nearly all of the 39 features will be based on pre-sold, established literary properties, such as published stories, books and Broadway plays.

This was announced by Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of world-wide distribution.

At least two and perhaps four others might be of road show calibre, Mr. Connors revealed.

Among the outstanding pictures will be:

"The Song of Bernadette," Jennifer Jones, new "find" appears as St. Bernadette.

"Claudia," starring Dorothy McGuire, Robert Young and Ina Claire.

"One World," to be based on the best-seller by Wendell L. Willkie.

"Wilson," dramatic picturization of the life of Woodrow Wilson.

"Wintertime," a musical romance starring Sonja Henie, with Carole Landis, Jack Oakie, Cesar

Romero, Woody Herman and his band.

"Heaven Can Wait," Ernst Lubitsch production in Technicolor, starring Don Ameche, Gene Tierney and Charles Coburn.

"Holy Matrimony," starring Monty Woolley and Gracie Fields.

"The Keys of the Kingdom," by A. J. Cronin, a best seller novel, one of the most coveted and sought after properties for the screen, is one of three acquired from David Selznick.

"Jane Eyre," from the classic by Charlotte Bronte, starring Orson Welles and Joan Fontaine.

"Dancing Masters," a comedy with Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

"Bomber's Moon," starring George Montgomery and Annabella.

"Guadalcanal Diary," from the best-seller. Players include William Bendix and Lloyd Nolan.

"Happy Land," Don Ameche, Harry Carey, Ann Rutherford, Francis Dee and others.

"Galveston," formerly titled "Tampico," will star Edward G. Robinson, Victor McLaglen, Lynn Bari.

"Buffalo Bill," biggest outdoor epic to come from 20th Century-Fox since "Jesse James," will be photographed in Technicolor. Harry Sherman is the producer. Players include Joel McCrea, Maureen O'Hara, Linda Darnell, Thomas Mitchell, Edgar Buchanan.

"Lifeboat," from the well-known novel by John Steinbeck. Alfred Hitchcock directing. Players will include Tallulah Bankhead, Henry Hull, Canada Lee, Mary Anderson.

"The Lodger," with Merle Oberon, Laird Cregar, George Sanders.

"Rickenbacker," a cavalcade of the American spirit.

"The Eve of St. Mark," with Charles Bickford and Michael O'Shea.

"The Sullivans," a film story of the famous five brothers who went down with their ship. Cast, other than Thomas Mitchell who will portray the father of the Sullivan brothers, has not as yet been determined.

"Army Wife," in which Dorothy McGuire, of "Claudia" fame, will make her second screen appearance. Also set for important roles are Anne Baxter, Dana Andrews.

"Home in Indiana," filmed in Technicolor, mostly out-of-doors. Set for important roles are Lon McAllister, 19-year-old sensation of "Stage Door Canteen," and Walter Brennan.

"All Out Arlene," which Ernst Lubitsch will direct and produce.

Anne Baxter has been chosen to play the title role.

"Something for the Boys," based on the sensational stage success now currently playing on Broadway.

"By Jupiter," picturization of New York stage success.

"Stars and Stripes Forever," a film biography of John Philip Sousa, in which many of his greatest songs will be used.

"Torpedo Squadron 8," the story by the only survivor of the famous Torpedo Squadron 8, as published in Life Magazine, will be in Technicolor.

"Command Performance," formerly titled "Four Jills and a Jeep," is based on the true-life adventures of four Hollywood girls who went to the fighting front in Europe and North Africa to entertain the soldiers. All four, Carole Landis, Martha Raye, Kay Francis and Mitzi Mayfair, are in the picture. Joe E. Brown and Cornel Wilde are among the male members of the cast.

"Paris After Dark," a mystery drama with George Sanders, Brenda Marshall and Philip Dorn.

"Roger Touhy, Gangster" with Preston Foster, Victor McLaglen. The Seven Technicolor musicals are:

"Pin-up Girl" with Betty Grable, Martha Raye, Joe E. Brown, Charley Spivak and his Orchestra.

"Greenwich Village" with Carmen Miranda and Jack Oakie.

"Moment for Music," musical dramatizing the career of the King of Swing, Benny Goodman, who will appear in the film.

"Where Do We Go From Here?" with Betty Grable.

"Sweet Rosie O'Grady," with Betty Grable, Robert Young, Adolphe Menjou, Reginald Gardiner.

"The Gang's All Here" with Alice Faye, Carmen Miranda, Edward Everett Horton, James Ellison, Sheila Ryan, Phil Baker.

"State Fair," a musical version of Phil Stong's famous book.

Other properties which the company owns from which remaining features will be fashioned include "The Bowery After Dark," "Laura," "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," "Kiki" and "Only the Stars Are Neutral."

Tom Connors also announced that the company will release 41 short subjects inclusive of "Three Sisters of the Moors," story of the Bronte sisters, directed by Irving Pichel, for the 1943-44 season. In addition there will be one "March of Time" every four weeks, a total of 13 for the year, as well as 104 issues of Movietone Newsreel.

The new season's shorts will include 20 Terrytoons, all of which will be in Technicolor.

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## Batches of Braid At 'Army' Bow

Three "firsts" were scored at Quebec Monday night when a distinguished audience headed by delegates to the Allied conference attended a special U. S. Army-sponsored screening of Irving Berlin's "This Is the Army" at the Capitol Theatre.

It was the first showing of a picture under U. S. Army auspices in Canada, the only film so honored during the conference, and the initial showing of the Warner Bros. production in the Dominion.

Prominent figures in the audience, invited by the Canadian Co-ordination Committee, included Subaltern Mary S. Churchill and 24 guests from the Citadel, Lady Flset, Lord Louis Mountbatten; Admiral Ernest J. King, commander of the U. S. Fleet; Vice-Admiral Percy W. Nelles, chief of staff, Royal Canadian Navy; Air Marshall L. S. Breadner, chief of staff, Royal Canadian Air Force; Air Marshall Sir Charles Portal, chief of staff, Royal Air Force; Wing Commander O. P. Gibson, and others.

One hundred-piece Royal 22nd Regiment Band gave a stage concert and played "The Star Spangled Banner" before showing of the picture, and "O Canada" and "God Save the King" at the close.

## Roxy, Alberni, B.C. To Be Re-opened

The Roxy Theatre, Alberni, British Columbia, will re-open Labor Day, and will operate nightly depending on attendance, according to Harold Warren, manager of the Capitol and Port theatres. Greater theatre patronage because of increased population in Alberni and Port Alberni is responsible.

## Flt. Sgt. Christmas Reported Missing

Flight Sergeant Lloyd G. Christmas, former chief of staff for FPC in Hamilton, has been reported missing during overseas operations earlier this month. He was originally in the RAF but was transferred to the RCAF. His wife, Meva, is assistant manager to Jack Purvis at the Tivoli, Hamilton.

## Quebec Confab Score Para, 3; Others, 2

Win Barron of Paramount brags via mail from the scene of the historic conference at Quebec that three of five films shown up to writing time were Paramount product—"Dixie," "So Proudly We Hail" and "Let's Face It." Universal screened "Silver Fleet" and Columbia "Appointment in Berlin."



## Sketches in Sulphuric Acid—No. 1

An occupational hazard of screen columnists is sugar poisoning from those over-sweet and continuous brevivnettes of the stars. One of these days a press agent will break under the strain of scribbling them and file the following:

"Trina Magoosh, famed rage and scream star of Funniest Stenchery Commotion Pictures, was this week voted by the boys of Murphy's Pool Hall as the girl most likely to accede. Trina came up the not-too-hard way, sitting around the house on her girdle all day while her mother basked in the soothing atmosphere of the local foundry. Trina got into Hollywood on a pass—by a producer.

"Since then she has covered more laps than a six-day bike rider. An outdoor type, she was nevertheless rejected by the Waacs as being definitely a 4F girl. Back home she was once a social worker whose social work was subsidized by the Playground Department.

"There was a time when Trina could barely keep bodice and soles together. Now her cheques are good—everybody has one. They will be converted into tires for a garbage truck to be named after her, which she will launch by cracking her empty skull against it.

"Her famed figure is the result of a cast-iron camisole, priority symbol PU, and her face has been lifted so often that what look like beauty marks are really corns.

"Trina has indulged in unholy acrimony seven times but she laughs that off lightly as a girlish whim. She says she is still looking for 'Mr. Big'—as she calls him so cleverly. Studio workers say that she is a girl after their own hearts—with a knife.

"Trina is short for Trichina."

## High Water Mark?

Leave it to Hollywood to find a new paint conservation idea. There are now three different levels for stocking makeup. The bottom rung is for evening wear, the next for street clothes and the third is for bathing suits and sportswear. . . . Maybe it's part of Hollywood's "colossal" attitude but a farmer in a neighboring town, with the aid of chemicals, raised over-size pumpkins four months ahead of the usual gathering time. . . . Joe E. Brown is running a USA version of our Sports Service League, collecting equipment for the boys overseas. . . . June Lockhart, daughter of Ontario's Gene, will have an important role in "The White Cliffs of Dover." Ottawa lent the studio much troop equipment for the depiction of the Dieppe raid, one of the features of the film. . . . Janice Wilson, the 12-year-old actress who played Bette Davis' adopted daughter in "Now Voyager," plays her real offspring in "Watch on the Rhine" . . . Television equipment for homes and theatres is all blueprinted and manufacture will begin immediately after the war.

## Worth Remembering

Wendell Willkie in "One World" (Simon and Schuster, N.Y.): "For now more than ever, we must keep in the forefront of our minds the fact that whenever we take away the liberties of those whom we hate, we are opening the way to loss of liberty for those whom we love."

## Screenario

Not all soldiers are so crazy to kiss movie stars as we're led to believe. At the Hollywood canteen a soldier, on being invited to kiss Katharine Hepburn, refused with: "I got married yesterday—and I won't kiss anybody else today!" . . . Tex Ritter, hero of a thousand wild-riding scenes and hairbreadth escapes, had to quit work because he fell from his haymow. . . . Some of the Russian films to be offered will have the actors speaking in English. . . . Charles Laughton, Walter Huston and possibly Katharine Hepburn will play in the film version of Pearl Buck's "Dragon Seed" . . . "For Whom the Bell Tolls" will not be seen in Canada unless the Wartime Prices and Trade Board allows the admission prices to be raised. "Gone With the Wind" hasn't been reissued for the same reason. . . . Warners has established a coaching school in New York for promising young players. They have to get them fast and train them fast these days.



## Current Releases

### PAYOFF

Lee Tracy and  
Tina Thayer

### THE YANKS ARE COMING

Henry King's Orchestra  
Mary Healy, Jackie  
Heller

### BOSS OF THE BIG TOWN

John Litel, Florence Rice  
H. B. Warner

### MISS V FROM MOSCOW

Lola Lane, Noel Madison,  
Howard Banks

### GHOST AND THE GUEST

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# "MY KINGDOM FOR A COOK", COLUMBIA COMEDY, TO HAVE AUG. 31 RELEASE

## Attraction in Studio's Laugh Hit Tradition to Star Coburn

A new comedy from Columbia is always interesting screen news, but when the studio that has turned out so many laugh hits claims a new one belongs up there with the memorable big ones, it's worthwhile to sit up and take notice.

"My Kingdom For A Cook," according to Columbia officials, is such a comedy. It will be released Aug. 31.

The talk at Columbia's home office is that this Charles Coburn starrer has that certain laugh-provoking something that meant great success for "The More The Merrier," "Mr. Deeds," "You Can't Take It With You," "Here Comes Mr. Jordan," "The Awful Truth," "My Sister Eileen," "It Happened One Night," "Mr. Smith Goes To Washington" and many other Columbia hits in a light vein.

Exhibitors will be glad to know, say Columbians, that Charles "Dingle" Coburn has even a bigger chance to strut his inimitable stuff than he had in "Merrier," with the result that "My Kingdom For A Cook" is another picture guaranteed to give audiences a Dingle.

Supporting Coburn are Marguerite Chapman, Bill Carter (of stage fame), Isobel Elsom, Edward Gargan. Directorial honors go to Richard Wallace, while P. J. Wolfson produced. The screen play is by Harold Goldman & Andrew Solt; and Joseph Hoffman & Jack Henley.

The story has to do with Rudyard Morley, world-famous British author, who decides to go to America to do his bit. But bit or no bit, the biggest thing in Morley's life is his stomach. His lovely daughter, Pam, runs it a bad second in his thoughts.

His adventures in a small New England town, where he makes his presence thoroughly felt, and ends up by stealing his hostess' cook, even though Pam meanwhile has fallen in love with his hostess' son, make for some of the gayest, giddiest farce in years, according to executives who have seen the picture.

"My Kingdom For A Cook," in short, does for the servant problem what "The More The Merrier" did for the housing problem, and that, you may recall, is plenty!

"Kingdom" is Coburn's first starring job since Columbia upped him to stellar roles. This followed the character comic's amazing success in "The More The Merrier."

So unusual was the Dingle role in "Merrier" that Columbia used the character idea as a "teaser" element throughout its extensive radio campaign on the picture. Literally millions of radio listeners became Dingle-conscious even before the picture's release date, and tens of millions more joined them after "Merrier" began its phenomenally successful career at the boxoffice.

Fan mail, ever-reliable gauge to players' popularity, arose to unprecedented proportions, and Coburn's new starring contract followed as a matter of course.

